

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 303445
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DRAFTED BY AF/S:JDAVIDOW:RCB
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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
WHITE HOUSE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 303445

EXDIS DISTRIBUTE AS NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, UK, RH, SF

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: FOURIE VISIT TO LONDON

FOR AMBASSADOR BREWSTER FROM ASST SECRETARY MOOSE

REF: LONDON 20554

1. I TAKE YOUR POINT (REFTEL) AND AGREE THAT THE BRITISH
NEED NOT BE "EXCEEDINGLY VAGUE" IN DISCUSSIONS ABOUT
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TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND THE ZNA WITH FOURIE.

2. HOWEVER, WE REMAIN CONCERNED, AND THINK YOU SHOULD
EXPRESS THIS TO GRAHAM IF HE IS NOT ALREADY AWARE OF OUR
VIEW, ABOUT PREMATURELY REVEALING TO THE SOUTH AFRICANS
TOO MANY DETAILS OF LORD CARVER'S THINKING. WE CAN
EXPECT THE SOUTH AFRICANS TO PASS ON TO SMITH EVERYTHING

FOURIE IS TOLD AND WE DO NOT WANT TO FIND OURSELVES IN A SITUATION IN WHICH SMITH PUBLICLY REVEALS ELEMENTS OF LORD CARVER'S IDEAS BEFORE THESE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSED WITH THE NATIONALISTS AND THE FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS.

3. FURTHER, PAST NEGOTIATING EXPERIENCE WITH THE SOUTH AFRICANS HAS SHOWN THAT THEY HAVE A DISCONCERTING HABIT

OF CONVERTING PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS INTO ALLEGED CONCRETE PROPOSALS WHICH THEY THEN, WHEN IT IS TO THEIR ADVANTAGE, CLAIM WE HAVE ABROGATED IF THE PRELIMINARY THOUGHTS ARE SUBSEQUENTLY MODIFIED.

4. IN SUM, BRITISH SHOULD TREAD WITH CAUTION AND EMPHASIZE TO FOURIE THAT THE TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND THINKING ABOUT THE CREATION AND STRUCTURE OF THE ZNA ARE PRELIMINARY,SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER PARTIES EVOLVE. VANCE

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